



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: October 16, 2007

Internet Address: www.sba.gov/fl/north

Contact: Lola Kress Naylor (904) 443-1933

E-mail: lola.naylor@sba.gov

SBA Regional Administrator to Address City's First State of Small Business

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in coordination with Essential Capital Finance, Inc., a local Certified Development Company and SBA 504 authorized lender, and their partners in banking, economic development and the local business community will convene the city's first annual summit "America's Small Business - State of The Sector." The event will take place on November 14, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at The Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum, 829 North Davis Street in Jacksonville. In attendance will be bankers, business owners and civic leaders from across Northeast Florida.

The keynote speaker will be Nuby J. Fowler, SBA Regional Administrator for Region IV. She is responsible for delivery of SBA programs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. She was appointed by President Bush in 2002. Ms. Fowler will address the audience about the state of the small business in America and the status of our national economy. The event is *free* and open to the public.

Please RSVP by Friday, November 9, 2007 to hazel@otai.com. For more information about this event please contact Lola Kress Naylor at 904-443-1933, Essential Capital Finance, Inc., at 904-398-9411 or the event planner Hazel Y. Campbell (904) 703-6262.

###

Event is open to the media. Please contact lola.naylor@sba.gov to coordinate.

For more information on SBA Programs and Services, please visit www.sba.gov.

###